Renewal of duty entitlement pass book scheme

4083. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to impose a price cap of Rs. 750 per piece on silk garments for export for the purpose of tax benefits of 15 per cent under the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme; and

(b) if so, whether this has been made in responce to a demand by silk exporters for renewal of DEPB scheme to silk embroidered garments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) On 1-1-2001 a value cap of Rs. 750 per piece was imposed on silk garments for export for which the DEPB rate had been fixed at 15% w.e.f. 1-4-2000. W.e.f. 1-4-2001, the DEPB has been refixed at 14% with a value cap of Rs. 750 per piece.

(b) The assessment and fixation of DEPB benefits has been made by Govt. on the basis of the objectives of the Scheme, duties imposed on imported raw material and the data available to it from exporters, customs & other sources regarding prices.

Reduction in the new duty drawback rates

4084. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the garment industry is under severe competition from neighbouring countries and facing decline in exports due to slow-down in the US and Japan economies;

(b) whether the textile and garment exporters have sought immediate review of the reduction in the new duty drawback rates; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) A declining trend is noticed in the garment exports since the beginning of year 2001, which is mainly due to slowdown in the economies of some of the major importing countries such as US.

(b) and (c) Subsequent to the announcement of All India Duty Drawback rates in first week of June 2001, there had been representation from textiles and garments exporters for revision of these rates. These rates have since been reviewed and suitably revised.

Problems of weavers in Tamil Nadu

4085. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that the weavers of Tamil Nadu are facing acute problem of survival due to recession in the industry:

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto:

(c) whether Government propose to take any concrete measures to protect the interests of the weavers in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has not received any complaint alleging that the weavers in Tamil Nadu have facing acute problem of survival due to recession in industry.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure sustainable livelihood and improved standard of leaving and also for development and welfare of handloom weavers and the sector, the Government of India has already been implementing various programmes/schemes like, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM), Decentralised Training Programmes, National Centre for Textile Designs (NCTD), Mill Gate Price Scheme and Welfare Schemes like Workshed-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Health Package and Insurance Schemes. To further safeguard the interest of the handloom ,weavers, the Government has been implementing the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 under which at present 11 categories of Textile Articles are exclusively reserved for production on handlooms.